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BOOK NOTICES.

L'Extension du Système Décimal aux mesures du Temps et des Angles. Théorie, Applications Scientifiques et Industrielles par J. de Rey Pailhade, Ingénieur Civil des Mines. Paris, Gauthiers-Villars & Fils, Imprimeurs-Libraires du Bureau des Longitudes, de L'École polytechnique, 55 Quai des Grands-Augustins, 55. Toulouse, Gimet-Pisseau, Libraire-Éditeur, 66, Rue Gambetta, 66. 1897. 8vo.

M. de Rey-Pailhade works without ceasing at his labour of love, though well aware of the obstacles in his way. "For the time," he says, "the one object must be the adoption of the system for science, so as not to alarm the public, which is the sturdiest supporter of routine."

He has made converts. The Toulouse Chamber of Commerce adopted in April, 1897, a resolution in favour of the application of the decimal system to the division of time and of the circle. His table for simplifying the reduction of minutes and seconds to decimals of the hour has met with favour in Mexico and in Greece. It is true that Mr. Holden, of the Lick Observatory at Mt. Hamilton, does not see the immediate necessity of a change; but curiously enough, says M. Rey-Pailhade, his astronomical assistants, Messrs. Aitken and Schaeberle, make use of the decimal division of the day and the degree.

The conclusion reached is that the decimal division of time is a necessary reform and that a few years will see it established, if the needed instruction is given in the schools, and scientific societies and writers add, in parenthesis, the decimal value of the minutes and seconds as now used: *e. g.*, 8.30 P.M. (decimal time 85^{cés}, 4). The Geographical Society and the Society of Natural History, of Toulouse, have practised this reform since the year 1894.

Les Restes de la Civilisation Hindoue à Java, par Jules Leclercq, Correspondant de l'Académie Royale de Belgique. (Extrait du Bulletin de l'Académie Royale Belgique.)

M. Leclercq had cherished the idea of approaching the great temple of Boro-Budur by moonlight, but the moon was hidden by dense clouds when he reached the ruins, and it was in the early morning that he climbed the steps to the top of the monument.

Thence he looked down on the chaos of terraces and cupolas, of